

THE TORY LETTER WRITER

SPECIALLY ISSUED FOR THE EDUCATION OF

"RISING GENERATION TORY CLUBS."

The Tory regime at Ottawa has been productive of some remarkable correspondence, which has from time to time been given to the public. A few specimens will be found herewith.

In August, 1872, during the general election campaign, Sir John Macdonald addressed a meeting at Peterboro', Ont., and in referring to Louis Riel he said:—"I wish to God I could catch him." The honesty of his statement in that regard was open to doubt some years afterwards, when the following letter was produced to a Parliamentary Committee by Archbishop Tache. It will be observed that this letter contained \$1,000, to be used in securing Riel's absence from the country eight months previous to the now famous Peterboro' speech:—

(Private and strictly confidential.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 27th, 1871.

"MY DEAR LORD ARCHBISHOP,—

"I have been able to make the arrangement for the individual that we talked about. I now send you a sight draft on the Bank of Montreal for \$1,000; I need not press upon Your Grace the importance of the money being paid to him periodically (say monthly or quarterly), and not in a lump, otherwise the money would be wasted, and our embarrassment begin again. The payment should spread over a year.

"Believe me Your Grace's

"Very obedient servant,

"JOHN A. MACDONALD."

"His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, Montreal."

In 1872, when Sir John Macdonald was endeavouring to carry the country with the aid of the money advanced by the late Sir Hugh Allan and his New York associates, with whom the Premier had arranged to sell the charter for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, among the many demands made on Sir Hugh Allan for money, was the following telegram to Sir Hugh's confidential agent from Sir John Macdonald:

[TELEGRAM.]

KINGSTON, August 12th, 1872.

"HON. J. J. C. ABBOTT,—

"Send me another \$10,000—last time of asking.

"JOHN A. MACDONALD."

[Form 29.]

(OVER.)

As it was feared that the gerrymander and corruption would not carry the Tories through the contest successfully in 1882, further intriguing became necessary, and a gathering of Tories was held at Chestnut Park, Sir David Macpherson's mansion, at which an arrangement was made whereby Sir John promised the Orange representatives to assist in the passage of the Orange incorporation bill by the Dominion Parliament, and pledged additional representation in the Cabinet to the Roman Catholics, by giving a portfolio to Hon. John O'Donohue. But the rank and file of the Orangemen "kicked" against the *quid pro quo*—the latter part of the compact—and Sir John, to prove that he would be faithful to his pledges, wrote this letter to the Roman Catholic Bishops of Ontario:—

(Private and Confidential.)

TORONTO, June 5th, 1882.

"MY DEAR LORD,—

"Mr. O'Donohue will tell you of the *the tempest that has been raised* here in Toronto on account of the supposition that his views are extreme as to the Irish question. This might destroy his future; and it has, therefore, been arranged between the Hon. F. Smith and O'Donohue that the former is to represent the Irish Catholics in the Cabinet, while O'Donohue will get a seat in the Senate.

"Frank Smith is to make way for O'Donohue in the Ministry when they think the time is opportune. Those two gentlemen are acting in perfect accord, and desire that I should explain to your Lordship the nature of their arrangement, which, of course, must be kept a profound secret at present.

"Believe me, my dear Lord,

"Faithfully yours,

"(Sgd.) JOHN A. MACDONALD."

During the visit of Hon. W. Laurier to Ontario in December, 1886, strenuous efforts were put forth by a certain section of the Tory party at Toronto, London, Peterboro', and Windsor, to provide for organized disturbances at his meetings. Full particulars of the action of the London contingent can be learned from a perusal of the following:—

A. G. CHISHOLM,

BARRISTER,
RICHMOND ST.,
LONDON, ONT.

LONDON, December 9th, 1886.

MY DEAR MATTHEWS,

I want you to do me a favour. Do you think you could come down here on Monday in time to give an exhibition of your ventriloquial powers at a meeting. I will tell you what it is: Laurier, the Frenchman, who so abused the volunteers that went to the North-West, is going to speak on that evening for the Grits, and I want to know if you will come down here in time for the meeting, and throw your voice on the platform so as to make the vagabond think some of his Political friends don't endorse his sentiments

also to intersperse his remarks with a few of those choice notes in the shape of cat-calls, &c., and which you know how to make so well. We will get you a seat right in front of the platform, and you will be surrounded by friends. I can guarantee we will have some good fun, and we will give you \$10.00, in addition to your expenses. What we want particularly is to make it appear that the friends of the speaker on the platform are saying what is not at all complimentary of him. I think you could manage this for us. You would have to leave so as to get here on Monday evening or afternoon. If you decide to come, telegraph me, saying what time you will come, and I will meet you—if in the afternoon; or if at noon, come to the office (above address). Of course, if you cannot come I want the letter kept secret, and will depend upon you for that. Try and come. Destroy this letter.

(Sgd.)

A. G. CHISHOLM,

Lieut. 7th Fusiliers.

A campaign conducted on sound Tory principles could not but bring to the front a prophet; the Ontario Provincial election in December, 1886, was not an exception, as this confidential letter from Dalton McCarthy, President of the Tory Central Association, proves. But, instead of carrying 57 seats, the Tories have to be satisfied with 32.

(Private and Confidential.)

LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE UNION,

TORONTO, Dec. 23rd, 1886.

"DEAR SIR,—One last word. Victory is within our grasp. Returns of the most favourable character are coming in. We expect to carry fifty seats and there are seven other ridings in which our chances are just as good as our opponents. Close up your ranks, complete your organization, arrange for getting out all your voters on polling day, select your best men for work as scrutineers and outside workers. Appoint no men merely as compliment. We want none but good workers who will carry out their instructions implicitly, and fight until the last vote is polled. Upon the result in your constituency the fate of the party for the Province may depend. Do not wake up on the morning after polling day to reproach yourselves with want of efforts, which, if made, would have turned defeat into victory. The whole issue may rest upon your individual exertions. One supreme effort on behalf of the old cause and the old flag and the battle will be won. Spare no exertion. Remember that one vote may elect your candidate, and his vote may defeat the Mowat Government.

"Show this letter in confidence to trusted friends—it may stimulate them to do their duty. The hopes of the Liberal-Conservatives of Ontario are on your constituency. Do not disappoint them.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) DALTON MCCARTHY.

"Chairman of the Executive Committee of the
Liberal-Conservative Union of Ontario."

It remained for the versatile intellect of **Alfred Boulton**, henchman and political shadow of Sir John Macdonald, to bring into existence one of the most interesting of this series in the letter that he wrote to **Judge Morgan** advising him to see **Dalton McCarthy**. **Morgan** was revising barrister for East York. With his assistance the lists for that county were stuffed with "faggot" votes. Who could speak with as great authority as he about Boulton's chances? That "the some assistance" which Boulton expected to receive from Sir John was money for corrupt purposes, no one will doubt.

This is the letter :

"TORONTO, January 9th,

"Sunday A.M.

"DEAR MORGAN,—

"I think it might serve me materially if you were to see **McCarthy** this a. m., and impress him incidentally that I am likely to carry East York. With his usual habit, politically, of talking authoritatively about what he does not understand, he has been telling Sir John that I have no chance of carrying the riding. Now, Sir John will be here in a day or two, and I want **McCarthy** loaded up the other way by the time he arrives, as **McCarthy's** present statement may, to a certain extent, hamper me in getting the assistance which I require.

"A. BOULTON.

"P. S.—Don't let him gather that you have any business in doing this.

E. MORGAN, Esq., Toronto.

This collection would not be complete without a record of the attempt by the Dominion Government to bribe the Liberal Members of the Local Legislature in 1884, the chief actors in this being Sir John Macdonald, Sir David Macpherson, Bunting, Wilkinson and Shields. In order to strengthen Wilkinson's hands in the promises that he was making as to having one of the Liberal members appointed to a Registrarship in the North-West, he produced the accompanying letter from Macpherson as proof that any recommendation that he would make would be acted upon by the Ministry.

"OTTAWA, 1st February, 1884.

"DEAR SIR,—

"I have made up my mind to recommend your appointment as Registrar at Edmonton, N.W.T.

"Yours very truly,

"D. L. Macpherson,

"Minister of the Interior."

More convincing evidence of the means by which the Tories have ruled Canada for so many years could not be required. Their own pens tell the story. The electors have the remedy in their hands at the polls.